Khan Sahib Y. Muhammed Roshan Sahib Bahadur *(Commissioner of Police)*: The subject matter really concerns the Madras Government also and the Cochin Government did not want to interfere in a matter involving the Madras Government too.

Mr. C. V. Iyyu *(Kunnamkulam)*: The allegation ought to have been refuted as it is against the Cochin Police. The Government ought to have refuted it, that such a thing did not happen.

Mr. President: I do not think any Government could possibly undertake to refute any allegation which appears in the Press which is not quite accurate.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri)*: Sir, it is not like any other allegation. It is the case of kidnapping of a very respectable gentleman, Dr. K. B. Menon, who has got a very high status in the political life of the country, it is a case of kidnapping of such a gentleman by the Cochin Police.

Mr. President: Order, order.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri)*: Sir, I want to know whether the Government is not aware of the allegation, namely of the kidnapping by the Cochin Police of a respectable man.

Khan Sahib Y. Muhammad Roshan Sahib Bahadur *(Commissioner of Police)*: I stated in the written answer that the allegations are untrue as they exist in the paper "Mathrubhoomi." The Government have read the article as it appeared in the Mathrubhoomi.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri)*: Have the Government understood that the allegation mentioned amounts to kidnapping by a Police Officer of Cochin ?

Khan Sahib Y. Muhammad Roshan Sahib Bahadur *(Cmmissioner of Police)*: I have answered that the allegation is incorrect.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri)*: My question is whether the Government has understood the allegation as one of kidnapping by the Police of Cochin of a respectable man.

Kahn Sahib Y. Muhammad Roshan Sahib Bahadur *(Commissioner of Police)*: No.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri)*: Then the Government have not understood the Malayalam article properly.

Mr. V. K. Bhaskara Menon *(Cranganur)*: Has the Government considered the allegation serious ?

Khan Sahib Y. Muhammad Roshan Sahib Bahadur *(Commissioner of Police)*: In as much as the allegation is not true, the Government has not taken a serious view of it.

Mr. K. T. Achuthan *(Ezhuvas-Talappalli)*: Who made the enquiry ?

Khan Sahib Y. Muhammad Roshan Sahib Bahadur *(Commissioner of Police)*: I made the enquiry myself.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri)*: May I say what, the allegation is. I have got a copy of the article.

Mr. President: Order, order. We have no time to hear the article read. The time for questions and answers is almost up.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri)*: Sir, I want to know whether on reading the article in question, the Government have understood the allegation to be one of kidnapping under the Penal Code of Cochin.

Mr. President: Order, order. That question has already been answered.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri)*: No, Sir.

Khan Sahib Y. Muhammad Roshan Sahib Bahadur *(Commissioner of Police)*: It does not amount to an offence of kidnapping.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri)*: Only one of the two inferences is possible, but I do not want to say it now.

FUEL—HIGH PRICE OF

38. Mrs. Thankamma N. Menon *(Ernakulam-Women)*: Will Government be pleased to state.—

(*a*) are Government aware that the price of firewood in Ernakulam Town has become very prohibitive ;

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(*b*) will Government be pleased to control the price of firewood and open a fire-wood depot at Ernakulam, as early as possible ?

Mr. S. Venkiteswaran *(Conservator of Forests)*:

(*a*) Yes.

(*b*) Arrangements are being made to make fuel available at reasonable rates at Ernakulam for domestic purposes.

Mrs. Thankamma N. Menon *(Ernakulam-Women)*: May I inform the Government that the price formerly was Rs. 4 per ton ?

Mr. President: Order, order. the Hon'ble Member seems to be making a recommendation by putting it in the form of a question.

Mrs. Thankamma N. Menon *(Ernakulam-Women)*: I was making a suggestion only.

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri)*: May I know whether fuel will be made available for Mattancheri also.

Mr. S. Venkiteswaran *(Conservator of Forests)*: Arrangements are also being made for Mattancheri.

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri)*: Thank you.

Mr. V. K. Bhaskara Menon *(Cranganur)*: What is the cost per ton?

Mr. S. Venkiteswaran *(Conservator of Forests)*: Fuel is sold at Ernakulam at Rs. 16 per ton.

Mr. A. V. Moothedan *(Chalakkudi)*: What exactly are the arrangements now being made for the supply of fuel ?

Mr. S. Venkiteswaran *(Conservator of Forests)*: Fuel can be had even today at Ernakulam at Rs. 16 per ton.

Mrs. Thankamma N. Menon *(Ernakulam-Women)*: What was the price of fuel 6 months ago.

Mr. S. Venkiteswaran *(Conservator of Forests)*: I don't know.

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri)*: At what rate were you selling a waggon-load of fuel 6 months ago ?

Mr. S. Venkiteswaran *(Conservator of Forests)*: We were not selling fuel then.

Mr. A. V. Moothedan *(Chalakkudi)*: How many fuel depots have been started at Ernakulam ?

Mr. S. Venkiteswaran *(Conservator of Forests)*: One Central Depot and 4 sub-depots are being started.

Mr. President: The next business is voting of supplementary grants.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri)*: Sir, may I point out that there is a convention in this House that supplementaries are allowed to be put on questions reached before the time for questions is over.

Mr. President: I don't think that the convention has been broken.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri)*: There will be persons who want to put supplementary questions on this question of supply of fuel.

EXTENT OF LAND GIVEN TO PRIVATE PARTIES FROM RESERVE FORESTS

39. Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri)*: Will Government be pleased to state what is the area given to private parties from Reserve Forests for cultivation in the years 1117 and 1118 ?

Mr. S. Venkiteswaran *(Conservator of Forests)*:

1117	*1118*
4122 acres.	310 acres.

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